(b) 21,856 road works have been completed by the States upto end of May, 2004. The list of road works proposed to be undertaken in a State is to be finalized each year by the District Panchayats and they are cleared on year to year basis with reference to the Annual allocation for the State

(c) The programme is being executed by the Executing Agencies identified by the State Governments. The progress of implementation is being monitored, to ensure the completion of the works within the stipulated time and as per Guidelines, by the senior officers of the Executing Agency and the Nodal Department of the State Government In addition, at the central level the Ministry of Rural Development also monitors the progress through periodic reviews.

(d) The PMGSY Guidelines envisages that the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) will be manned by competent technical personnel from amongst the available staff or through deputationists. No new posts will be created for the purpose.

Raise up of cost of houses under Indira Awas Yojana

†379. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the cost-price of the houses which is at present twenty thousand rupees to be constructed for the persons living below the poverty-line under the Indira Awas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), the ceiling on assistance for construction of new houses has been increased from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 25,000/- per unit for the plain areas and from Rs. 22,000/- to Rs. 27,500/- per unit for the hilly/difficult areas with effect from 1.4.2004. The upper limit in respect of conversion of kutcha houses into semi/pucca houses (Upgradation) has also been increased from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 12,500/- per unit from the same date for all areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi